

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

AF-06 SAM-01 ACDA-10 COME-00 ITC-01 FRB-01 XMB-04

OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-10 /131 W

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O R 181100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4008

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 1423

CARACAS FOR SECSTATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: BRASILIA 1207

SUMMARY. LED BY INTENSIVE COVERAGE OF ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, BRAZILIAN PRESS CONTINUES TO PRODUCE A HEAVY VOLUME OF INTERPRETIVE, SPECULATIVE, AND BACKGROUND ARTICLES AND EDITORIAL COMMENT ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BRAZIL. FREQUENT THEME HAS BEEN EXTENT TO WHICH CONGRESSIONAL REBUFFS AND GROWING CRITICISM HAVE IMPAIRED SECRETARY'S AUTHORITY AND HOW LATIN AMERICAN TRIP MAY RELATE TO EFFORTS TO RESTORE HIS PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY. SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ARTICLES SEE VISIT AS MARKING NEW PHASE IN U.S.-BRAZILIAN

RELATIONS, TO BE LAUNCHED WITH SIGNING OF NEW "POLITICAL AGREEMENT," AS SUGGESTED BY FOREIGN MINISTER IN FEBRUARY 16 INTERVIEW. AMONG SUBJECTS MOST FREQUENTLY FORESEEN FOR DISCUSSION ARE ANGOLA, THE CUBAN THREAT, THE FUTURE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND BILATERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. CONSERVATIVE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CONTINUED USING VISIT AS OCCASION TO CRITICIZE SECRETARY'S COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AS FACTOR IN SOVIET GAINS IN ANGOLA AND DECLINE OF CONFIDENCE IN U.S. ECONOMIC ISSUES HAVE ALSO BEEN AIREN IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT, WITH BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON U.S. IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND REPORT THAT KISSINGER DURING VISIT WILL ANNOUNCE PRESIDENT'S SIGNING OF INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. LED BY INTENSIVE COVERAGE OF ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO PRODUCE HEAVY VOLUME OF INTERPRETIVE, SPECULATIVE AND BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BRAZIL.

2. MOST MAJOR PAPERS CARRIED VARIATION OF INFORMAL COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON FEBRUARY 16, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL AND OTHER MINISTERS ALLEGEDLY IN PREPARATION FOR KISSINGER VISIT. SILVEIRA GENERALLY REPORTED AS SAYING THAT BRAZIL WANTS "FRANK DIALOGUE" WITH KISSINGER AND THAT NO SUBJECTS WILL BE BARRED. SILVEIRA, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DOUBTED SECRETARY WAS BRINGING ANY PROPOSAL FOR FORMATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. HE RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY THAT BRAZIL MIGHT RECONSIDER ITS RECOGNITION OF MPLA-DOMINATED ANGOLA REGIME DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH KISSINGER. SILVEIRA QUOTED IN ESTADO AS CONFIRMING THAT "BROAD AGREEMENT OF GENERAL UNDERSTANDING" WOULD BE SIGNED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES DURING VISIT.

3. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, SILVEIRA REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FRANKLY PROBLEMS OF EXPORT OF BRAZILIAN MANUFACTURES, FOR WHICH OVERALL UNDERSTANDING WOULD DEPEND FUNDAMENTALLY ON "POLITICAL WILL" OF U.S. ASKED WHETHER VISIT SIGNALLED "NEW PHASE" IN RELATIONS WITH U.S., SILVEIRA NOTED THAT BRAZIL HAS GROWN AND MATURED, AND IN SPITE OF ITS POSITION OF INFERIORITY WITH U.S., HAS NEW STATUS THAT MUST BE RECOGNIZED BY STRONGER UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES. INFERIORITY, HE ADDED, DOES NOT IMPLY DEPENDENCY.

4. FEBRUARY 15 ARTICLE IN ESTADO BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST CARLOS CONDE QUESTIONS DEGREE TO WHICH KISSINGER CAN SPEAK FOR U.S. ON CURRENT TRIP, WHICH HE SEES AS PART OF CONTINUING EFFORT TO REASSERT LEADERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE IN FOREIGN POLICY AND MORAL AUTHORITY OF WASHINGTON IN FACE OF SOVIET ADVANCES. CONDE CITES PREVAILING VIEW THAT CONGRESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN FOREIGN POLICY

MATTERS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE, WITH NOVEMBER ELECTIONS IN U.S. PRODUCING EEN STRONGER TENDENCY TOWARD INDEPENDENT ACTION AND ISOLATIONISM. THEMES TO BE DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT, ACCORDING TO CONDE, ARE THE REFORM OF THE OAS AND NEW PATTERNS OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS, THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, MIDDLE EAST, THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE AND DETENTE, ANGOLA, PETROLEUM, AND FOOD.

5. WRITING IN THE SAME ISSUE OF ESTADO, STAFFER ARY RIBEIRO CITES "HIGH GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONAIRES" AS CLAIMING THAT SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL MARK "NEW PHASE IN U.S.-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS" AND THAT DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED WILL CREATE "MORE RAPID AND EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS FOR UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. U.S. THUS WOULD BECOME ONLY FIFTH OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH BRAZIL HAS SIGNED AGREEMENTS OF THIS TYPE. UNATTRIBUTED ARTICLE ON SAME PAGE OF ESTADO CLAIMS PUBLIC CLIMATE OF INDIFFERENCE IN BRASILIA TOWARD SECRETARY'S VISIT, MARKED BY NOTICABLE ABSENCE OF FLAGS AND DECORATIONS THAT CUSTOMARILY HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED DURING VISITS OF STATESMEN, AND GENERAL UNAWARENESS AS TO PURPOSE OF VISIT.

6. IN ARTICLE FEBRUARY 17, ESTADO'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST OLIVEIROS FERREIRA RULES OUT POSSIBILITY OF KISSINGER-SILVEIRA DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSALS FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE TO COUNTERBALANCE SOVIET PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. FERREIRA CLAIMS U.S. HAS ACCEPTED BRAZILIAN RECOGNITION OF MPLA AND MAJOR CONCERN IN TALKS WILL NOW BE POSSIBLE AFTEREFFECTS OF CUBAN INTERVENTIION THERE. ITAMARATY, HE ADDS, IS AWARE OF PROBLEM REPRESENTED BY CUBANS, WHOM IT SEES AS HAVING NO CAPACITY TO INTERVENCE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, AND SEES U.S. AS HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRINGING ABOUT CUBAN WITHDRAWAL BY PRESSURING THOSE WHO CONTROL SITUATION "DE FACTO". ELSWHERE IN FEBRUARY 17 ISSUE, ESTADO REPORTED THAT KISSINGER WOULD RAISE HERE, WHILE FOREWEARING UNCLASSIFIED

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INTENT TO PRESSURE, STRONG FEELING IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

7. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, IN A STORY BY ITS WASHINGTON CORESPONDENT (MELLO), SAID THAT "AT THE LATEST HOUR" THE SECRETARY DECIDED THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FISHLOW OUGHT TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON. THE NON-INCLUSION OF FISHLOW AND AN INCREASE IN JOURNALISTS INCLUDED IN THE PARTY, ACCORDING TO THE STORY COULD BE EXPLAINED BECAUSE:

- A. THE SECRETARY WANTS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES BEFORE TAKING UP ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND WITHOUT BEING CONCERNED WITH FINDING IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS TO PENDING ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; AND
- B. THE SECRETARY NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF THE PRESS TO REBUILD NATIONAL UNITY AND CONTINUITY IN THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

NOTING THE CONTINUING STAND-OFF BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE
EXECUTIVE, MELLO INTERPRETS SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP
AS ONE MORE EFFORT TO REGAIN UNITY.

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O R 181100Z FEB 76

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8. IN EARLIER ARTICLE ON SETTING FOR KISSINGER VISIT, MELLO
ALSO PLAYS ON SIMILAR THEME, OBSERVING SECRETARY AS MAN
BEREFT OF HIS FORMER CHARISMA, UNDER INCREASING ATTACK FOR HIS
POLICIES, REBUFFED IN HIS EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE SOVIETS IN
ANGOLA, AND UNABLE TO BRING AN END TO SERIOUS NATIONAL DIVISIONS
ON MAJOR POLICY.

9. IN SIMILAR EDITORIALS FEBRUARY 13 AND 15, ESTADO ATTACKS
SECRETARY'S COMMITMENT TO "DETENTE" AS MAJOR ELEMENT IN SOVIET
VICTORY IN ANGOLA. EDITORIAL CLAIM DETENTE IN POLICY OF WEAKNESS
WHICH HAS PERMITTED GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AND WHICH
ALLOWS SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA TO GO UNCHECKED,
MUCH TO DISMAY OF LATIN AMERICA. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT U.S. ACTED

IN ANGOLA ON BASIS OF LESSON LEARNED IN VIETNAM, AND IN FUTURE
LATIN AMERICA LIKELY TO ACT ON BASIS OF LESSON IT HAS LEARNED
IN ANGOLA. IN FRAMEWORK OF KISSINGER VISIT, ONE EDITORIAL
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CONCLUDES, TWO MAJOR POWERS OF HEMISPHERE SHOULD SEEK UNITY
IN "SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL REARMAMENT", WHILE OTHER EDITORIAL
COUNSELS "VISION AND COURAGE" BY BRAZILIAN POLICY MAKERS IN FORTHCOMI
NG
CONVERSATION IN EXAMINING TRUE NATIONAL INTERESTS.

10. COVER STORY ON KISSINGER IN FEBRUARY 18 ISSIU OF VEJA
MENTIONS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SILVEIRA AND
KISSINGER--INCLUDING FREQUENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS--WHICH SHOULD
AID BILATERAL COMMUNICATION. ASIDE FROM THE USUAL DIPLOMATIC
NICETIES, VEJA CLAIMS SECRETARY WILL DISCUSS ANGOLA, HUMAN
RIGHTS, AND THE NECESSITY FOR A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND BRASILIA. SUPPOSEDLY KISSINGER SEES SUCH A
RELATIONSHIP AS JUSTIFIED BECAUSE BRAZIL IS ONE OF THE FEW SOUTH
AMERICAN COUNTRIES U.S. CAN TRUST, SINCE IT DOES NOT RESORT TO
INTERNATIONAL DEMAGOGY--DESPITE DIVERGENCIES SUCH AS THE ANTI-
ZIONISM VOTE AND RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA. VEJA ADDS THAT BOTH
COUNTRIES CAN ENTER A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATION WITH THE SIGNING
OF A POLITICAL ACCORD THIS WEEK, WITH BRAZIL AVOIDING
"EXCEPTIONAL ATTITUDES" ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTION AND KISSINGER
DOING WHAT HE CAN TO EASE BRAZILIAN DEVELOPMENT--SUCH AS EASIER
ACCESS OF BRAZILIAN EXPORTS, GREATER CONSIDERATION FOR BRAZIL
IN INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS WHERE THE U.S. HAS A DECISIVE
INFLUENCE, INCREASED FLOW OF CREDIT AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT,
AND GREATER PUBLIC INVESTMENTS.

11. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE VISIT HAS
CENTERED ON U.S. "TRADE RESTRICTIONS". THE JORNAL DE BRASILIA
DESCRIBED THE SCENARIO OF "RESTRICTIONS" AS: FIRST THERE WERE
(CONTERVAILING DUTY) RESTRICTIONS ON SHOES, LATER ON LEATHER
HANDBAGS, AND NOW ON CASTOR OIL DERIVATIVES; THE TEXT AMERICAN
"THREAT" IS "QUOTA LIMITATIONS" (I.E., ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION)
ON SHOES, AND THE DAY AFTER THE SECRETARY LEAVES BRASILIA, THE
ITC WILL PRESENT TO PRESIDENT FORD THE RESULTS OF ITS INVESTIGA-
TION ON THIS SUBJECT. THE COLUMN WRITTEN BY THE PAPERS'S
ECONOMIC EDITOR NOTED THAT EVEN A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S
ARRIVAL, TREASURY SENT TO BRAZIL A MISSION TO INVESTIGATE
MECHANISMS TO STIMULATE EXPORTS. (COMMENT: THE PURPOSE OF THE
CUSTOMS TEAM VISIT, WHICH THE GOB DISALLOWED AFTER THE TEAM'S
ARRIVAL, WAS NOT THIS, BUT RATHER TO CHECK EXPORTERS' BOOKS
TO DETERMINE IF FRAUD EXISTED IN CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS.) THE
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EDITOR SAID THE SUBJECT OUGHT TO BE PRESSED WITH THE SECRETARY BECAUSE PRESIDENT FORD HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO TAKE MEASURES HE CONSIDERS CONTRARY TO U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH A SIMPLE MAJORITY IN CONGRESS COULD OVERTURN THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. ELECTION YEAR PRESSURES WERE CITED, HOWEVER, AS MAKING DIFFICULT A PRESIDENTIAL DECISION "TO WITHDRAW ANY RESTRICTIONS". ADDING TO THE LIST, GAZETA MERCANTIL FEBRUARY 16 CONJECTURED AS TO POSSIBLE SECTION 301 ACTION AGAINST BRAZILIAN SOYBEAN OILS EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

12. ON THE SAME THEME OF IMPORT "RESTRICTIONS", THE JORNAL DO BRASIL CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE, "KISSINGER COMES TO DISCUSS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS". THE INSIDE PAGE STORY, LIKE THE JORNAL DE BRASILIA STORY, POINTED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S POWERS, U.S. INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS (INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT DISLOCATION), AND THE CONCERN THAT OTHER IMPORT "RESTRICTIONS" WILL FOLLOW. THE STORY SAID THE INCREASE IN U.S. RESTRICTIONS "WILL LEAD BRAZIL TO ADOPT A RETALIATORY POSITION", AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES COULD BE MADE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

13. A COLUMN BY JORNAL DO BRASIL'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (DANTES) SAID THE SECRETARY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY ARGUE THE ADVANTAGES OF GSP, ALTHOUGH SUCH PREFERENCES DID NOT INCLUDE SUCH PRODUCTS AS SHOES AND LEATHER HANDBAGS.

14. ESTADO REPORTS THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JULES KATS REVEALED THAT KISSINGER WOULD DISCUSS THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT, INFORMING THE BRAZILIANS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S APPROVAL OF IT. SAME ARTICLE ALSO PREDICTED THAT THE STATUS OF U.S. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN BRAZIL WOULD SURELY BE DISCUSSED, SINCE IT ALONE REPRESENTS 32 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN BRAZIL.
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